

REMARKS

The election/restriction requirement dated March 17, 2009 holds that this application contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species. More specifically, Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species I - Figures 1-17;

Species II - Figures 18 and 19;

Species III- Blade bodies and the end plate being integrally molded and the end ring molded as a separate member (page 21, lines 20-21), and the blade bodies and the end ring integrally molded and the end plate molded as a separate member (page 21, lines 26-27); or

Species IV - Blade bodies and the end plate and the end ring are integrally molded, and just the blade covers attached to blade bodies by fitting the blade covers into the blade bodies (page 21, lines 28-30).

In response, Applicants hereby elect Species I *without traverse*. Applicants believe claims 1-12 and 14-22 read on the elected Species I. Thus, the remaining claim 13 can be withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected embodiment. However, Applicants respectfully request that this non-elected claim be considered and rejoined in this application upon allowance of a generic and/or claim in accordance with U.S. patent practice, if appropriate.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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